TARGETED ECONOMIC CLUSTERS

Economic clusters are "geographic concentrations of interconnected companies, specialized suppliers, service providers and associated institutions in a particular field that are present in a region." Effective clusters increase the productivity with which companies can compete.

Utah's Seven Economic Clusters

- Aerospace & Aviation

- Energy & Natural Resources

- Life Sciences

- Software Development & Information Technology

- Defense & Homeland Security

- Financial Services

- Outdoor Products & Recreation

Utah's economic cluster program exists to assist targeted industry sectors that have a strong opportunity for growth, increasing both the number of employees and wages. The most recent Department of Workforce Services data indicates that cluster industries added over 3,600 employees between December 2009 and December 2010, and employ nearly 167,000 Utahns at an average wage that is 57% higher than the Utah average wage.

Formula for Success

For clusters to be successful, there must be a vibrant R&D environment, robust commercialization activities, a well-trained and ready workforce, access to capital, interconnected industry and a supportive government. Utah is very fortunate to have successes in these areas, and is continually working to make them better. To ensure success, economic clusters always focus on the needs, challenges and opportunities that exist for the industry sector to grow. Partners include industry associations, the Utah Science Technology and Research initiative (USTAR), the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUtah), chambers of commerce, local elected officials, congressional delegates/staffers, federal agencies, military installations, local economic development organizations, academia (K-16+), state agencies, business services providers and many others.

Employment (State vs. Clusters)